

CIRCLE OF FELLOWSHIP

The First Universalist Society of Central Square

*A Unitarian Universalist
Congregation*

3243 Fulton Street
(Route 49, near Route 11)
Post Office Box 429
Central Square, New York
13036-0429

*Our church building is
handicapped accessible.*

Telephone: 315-668-6821

E-mail:
uucentralsquare@gmail.com

Church Web site:
*http://www.
centralsquareuu.com*

Facebook page:
*http://www.facebook.com
/pages/UU-Central-Square
/199139743511564*



Photo courtesy of Village of Central Square

Our Mission Statement

The mission of the First Universalist Society of Central Square is to be a welcoming, diverse congregation, which values spiritual growth and service to the local and world community.

Andrea Abbott, Student Minister	315-635-7122
The Rev. Libbie Stoddard, Minister Emerita	315-343-4352
Leigh Parry-Benedict, Music Coordinator	315-657-5904
Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Chairperson	315-623-7685
Winfield Ihlow, President	315-342-5939
Janie Garlow, Vice President	315-436-2238

Please have articles for the next newsletter to Bob Haskell by no later than NOON on MONDAY, MAY 25. He prefers to receive articles via e-mail. His e-mail address is rhaskell@twcnny.rr.com.

STUDENT MINISTER SNIPPET

As you read this, May Day will be upon us. May Day has changed and evolved to have different meanings for different people. Traditionally, May Day was a celebration of spring, linked to Earth-centered traditions such as Beltane. Celebrations included flowers, fires and other fertility festivities. The early Christian church often tried to stamp out this celebration but it persisted. Somehow we need to celebrate all the profusion of new life we see around us by May 1st. As I write this, I'm certainly hoping that we get some more profusion of new life and not the profusion of snowflakes promised. Such is life in Central New York. However, even here the daffodils are daffodilling and the crocuses are crocussing like crazy around my neighborhood and these things should be celebrated. When I was young, for May Day we made May baskets filled with early spring flowers and hung them on shut-ins' doors without any understanding of the roots of this custom.

But May Day also came to mean a worker's celebration, a time to honor those who create the life we live by so many, many endeavors: agricultural, manufacturing, building. This was the real day to celebrate those often overlooked, and only later was it supplanted by Labor Day. Of course, in the Soviet Union and its satellites, this was morphed into a military spectacle. We have to be careful with our celebrations and ensure they are not taken over for other purposes. So I propose that May Day be reconstituted as a celebration of the Earth and all who labor on it, a celebration of the giving of life and the sustaining of life, and a celebration of the care we need to take for the Earth and all her people. That's worth some baskets of flowers.



Andrea Abbott

THE REVEREND WEISSBARD TO SPEAK ON "HOW/WHEN SHALL WE DIE?"

The Rev. David Weissbard writes concerning his sermon for the Sunday, May 3, service: "One of the most fundamental questions which religions are supposed to address is the question of death. I've been thinking about it a lot since the Atlantic printed Zeke Emanuel's article on 'Why I Hope to Die at 75' in its October issue. I'll be 75 in July, have recently read Dr. Atul Gawande's fabulous new book 'Being Mortal', and had two experiences which relate to the issue of death. I will be attempting to put these together in a sermon for Sunday."

CHILDREN ARE FINISHING UP STORY

What does honesty, candy mosquitos and animal communication have in common?

The kids are completing their seven-principle story about a child's perfect world and you will soon find out. We will also be exploring what it means to live your beliefs, how we treat others and our world.

Ronna Schindler, Religious Education Committee chairperson and older children's teacher

CHANTING AND MEDITATION

Anyone who is interested in chanting and meditation is invited to contact Tim Hart via e-mail at timhart@a-znet.com or via telephone at 315-439-2541.

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote acceptance of one another
and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.**

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS KEEP BUSY

The Social Justice Committee did not meet during April, but remained very busy.

Ellen LaPine and Jane Garlow attended the District Assembly in Niagara Falls and had a successful sale of T-shirts, aprons and tote bags.

These items are still available from committee members.

We continue to collect money from bottle returns and coins from the collection plates for Pure Water for the World. We will make another donation this month.

The first Adopt-a-Highway pickup this year will be at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17.

Peter Meyers from the Tompkins County Workers Center was our latest speaker in the “Voices for Workers Equality” series.

Five members of our congregation attended the Workers Memorial Breakfast on Friday, April 24.

We are open to discuss other issues of social injustice. The date of our May meeting is to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hallock, committee chairperson



BOARD SPLINTERS

The Executive Board met on March 29.

It was decided that the Board will look into revamping our Web site with the help of a professional.

Heather Stevens, Central Square historian, requested permission to give a presentation from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, on one of our windows. The Board gladly agreed to this presentation being added to the calendar.

The Administrative Committee will coordinate with a professional cleaning service to provide supplemental deep cleaning to targeted areas of the church on a quarterly basis.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for May 3.

Ellen LaPine,
Recording Secretary

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM SCHEDULED

An adult religious education program is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, June 14. The topic is “aging.” Because we have discovered that this is a large topic, we will cover only certain aspects of this subject.

We will limit the number of people in this workshop to 12 people, as we have in past workshops. There will be a sign-up sheet circulated at coffee hour for this event.

The presenters will be the Rev. Libbie Stoddard, Ann Peterson and Marcia Burrell-Ihlow.

You are asked to bring a bag lunch for yourself.

Ann Peterson

**UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote a free and responsible search
for truth and meaning.**

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

BLOOD DRIVE 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M. ON SATURDAY, MAY 9

March was Red Cross Month, but you are encouraged to help the organization continue providing its lifesaving work by donating blood.

We will have one of our regularly scheduled Saturday blood drives from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 9.

You will be able to give either whole blood or double red cells during this drive.

You can make an appointment by using the sign-up sheet that is in the dining room, by visiting www.redcrossblood.org or by calling 1-800-REDCROSS. Walk-ins are also especially welcome.

We need volunteers to help during the drive. There is a sign-up sheet in the dining room if you would like to help during the drive. Please contact Ellen LaPine if you have any questions.



Thank you,
Social Justice Committee

GREEN MINUTE: INVASIVE SPECIES

As promised, this is the follow-up to last month's article on invasive species. This month I'll give some brief information on how to stop their spread.

Never release a pet into the wild. This is animal cruelty on several levels. Often released pets lack instincts and skills to survive in the local habitat. Those who do survive can create problems for local species by outcompeting them for habitat and for food and by spreading diseases. Sometimes to eradicate an invasive species, a lot of native animals in the area are also killed. Don't adopt a pet on impulse. Don't get the cute bunny at Easter or the gold fish that you're not sure you can take care of. Do your homework. Pets involve a long-term commitment of love, time and money. Don't get a pet if you can't or won't provide all three.

Don't compost live invasive plants or their seeds with your yard waste. Put the seeds and live roots in a black heavy-duty contractor bag, then place them in the sun for several weeks so they don't sprout. Then leave them inside the bag and put it in the trash. Learn to identify invasive plant species in your area by checking the illustrated online guide at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Web site of prohibited plants.

Clean, drain and dry your watercraft and equipment before launching at a new site. Some aquatic invasives are spread by small pieces of live plants that are easily carried on boats and trailers. Even canoes and kayaks can carry hitchhiking plants. Check the DEC Web site for guidelines on how to properly clean boats.

Don't move firewood, buy and burn it locally. You can easily transport insects and diseases that can quickly kill large numbers of trees.

Use native or non-invasive plants in landscaping. Using native plants provides great benefits for native animals and helps curb the spread of invasives. In general, garden cultivar and hybrids are non-invasive. Check out the Cornell Cooperative Extension's garden resource Web page for information on non-invasives and what plants to use to avoid deer browsing.

I encourage you to visit the DEC Web site for a lot more information on nuisance and invasive species and on how to stop their spread. Once at the Web site, look for animals, plants and aquatic life on the left side.

Ellen LaPine
Outreach Committee

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

UU congregations covenant to affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



HISTORICAL PRESENTATION

Heather Stevens, the Village of Central Square historian, will speak about the stained-glass windows at our church from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 17.

This year is the 125th anniversary for the Village of Central Square. Heather, along with the Historical Society, is doing site tours and talks to mark the occasion.

The stained-glass window presentation was written by the late Vernon Goettel, a church member.

If a member of the church would like to add or do a tour of the church, that could be incorporated, too.

Refreshments will be served as part of the program.

(Editor's note: The picture at the left shows two workers removing one of the church's three large stained-glass windows so that it could be restored several years ago.)

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH EVENTS MEDIA PUBLICITY

1. All church committees and individual church members should use the opportunity to submit any and all event listings that are open to the public in order to share our projects, interests, and information.

2. All event listings must be submitted at least THREE weeks in advance of the event. Events that are on-going, such as the Drum Circle, can also be posted. Information about the event must include the title, day, date, time frame, a description of the event, and the contact information for the event: the person, e-mail address and, if available, the phone number.

3. This information must be submitted to Barbara Kamerance by e-mail (preferred), bkamerance@gmail.com, by phone, 402-2591, or in writing.

All of the information that is asked for is expected for all Internet, broadcast, media postings, as well as a basis for the articles that are written for newspapers.

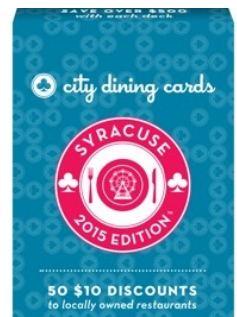
"CITY DINNER CARDS" STILL AVAILABLE

The Social Justice Committee is continuing to sell "City Dinner Cards" at a price of \$20 for 50 cards.

Each card is for a different restaurant and each gives you \$10 off a dinner costing \$30. So if you use two cards, you have your money back. The cards are good until the end of December 2015 and they make nice gifts.

The Social Justice Committee keeps \$10 for each deck of cards it sells.

See Ann Peterson to buy them or to check out which restaurants are included in the packet.



The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.



UNIRONDAK: A SPECIAL PLACE

Founded in 1951 by the New York State Convention of Universalists, Unirondack is a Unitarian Universalist Camp and Conference Center located in the forever wild forests of the Western Adirondack Mountains.

The main buildings of camp sit atop a hill overlooking beautiful Beaver Lake. Our performing arts center, boathouse and art shop, campfire circle, cookout area, athletic field and swimming beach sit directly at the water's edge.

Unirondack is a community that is shaped and re-shaped each summer by its staff members, campers, and volunteers. We offer some things in common with other summer camps: a beautiful lakeside setting, a wide range of daily activities, family-style meals, and the chance to spend time away in the woods. But what truly makes us unique is the energy, caring and creativity of the people who call Unirondack home.

Our enrollment is small relative to other children's camps, with approximately 15 counselors and 60 campers in each of our youth sessions, allowing counselors to provide personal attention to campers, creating a close-knit community. The exceptional young adults chosen to comprise our counseling staff receive professional training in leadership, program planning and implementation, conflict resolution, child development, safety and first aid, and methods of fostering an inclusive community.

Inventiveness runs rampant. Where else can you build a city in the sand, construct a cardboard/duct tape canoe, participate in a hilarious game show, paint your counselor, take on the persona of your favorite Harry Potter character, play shoe golf, learn circus arts, perform in a play, and still have time each day to swim, kayak, sing, and read poetry around a campfire?

Though we take pride in the creativity and abundance of our activities, Unirondack is more than its activities. It is a place where many people feel completely at home for the first time in their lives. At

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The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.



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Unirondack we live the values that are inherent in Unitarian Universalist principles—acceptance, compassion, and decision-making through the democratic process.

Each camper matters. We take time to figure out what our campers need and want. Campers and staff members share their thoughts and feelings about camp and our community during our daily “Camp Council.” Counselors spend their days getting to know campers through shared activities, long talks during cabin time, organized discussion groups, bursts of spontaneous fun, and that careful learning about another person that takes time and patience. Like that great teacher one remembers forever, our campers hold dear the relationships they form with their counselors, and the friendships they make with each other are meaningful ones that continue through the years.

At Unirondack we cherish the uniqueness of each camper. We welcome the nerdy, the creative, the free-spirited, the independent, the flamboyant, the hesitant, the shy, and the self-assured. We are a place of personal safety—a place to flourish. We are a place where silliness is acceptable behavior and fun is joined with learning. We are a place where campers get to do things they just don't get to do during their “normal” everyday lives. We are a place of self-reflection and discovery.

Parents often report that their children have somehow changed over the summer, become more confident, developed new skills, and learned things about themselves and others. They are surprised by the tears on departure day from their child—often the same child who was doubtful camp was for him or her.

Children, teens, adults and families who have spent a weekend, a week or a summer at Unirondack yearn to return again and again, for Unirondack is a special place — a community that allows us to be ourselves while being part of something greater.

Men's Gathering

In a rare opportunity, men of all ages, colors, creeds, and sexual orientations gather each year to share our experiences as men and explore what it means to be a man. We find ourselves renewed and reinvigorated as we talk openly about our lives and hopes. There are workshops to partake in and hiking or canoe trips to join. In all of our activities, from preparing meals together to sharing at the campfire, we enjoy the fellowship of other men. The weekend begins Friday evening after 6 pm and ends after breakfast on Sunday. This year's dates: Friday, June 12 – Sunday, June 14

(Editor's note: The above articles are from Unirondack Web sites.)

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against the idolatries of the mind and spirit.

The living tradition which Unitarian Universalists share draws from many sources, including spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

www.free-printable-calendar.net

3 – 9 a.m., Executive Board. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. David Weissbard leads the worship service. Random Acts of Kindness. 11:45 a.m., Social time. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to bring magazines to the church dining room to exchange them for others. The committee will continue the recycling process by passing on any magazines that are left to the Public Safety Building Jail in Syracuse every two or three months.

7 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

9 – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Red Cross Blood Drive at our church.

10 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. Noon, Monthly choir practice. This is the once-a-month Sunday on which the Social Justice Committee asks everyone to donate food items for our Downstairs Scotty. The committee also accepts non-food items for the Downstairs Scotty on this Sunday and at all other times. Such non-food items include soap, detergent, bathroom and facial tissues, toothpaste, and the like. All items will be taken later to the Downstairs Scotty thrift shop and food pantry at Divine Mercy Parish Center, 592 South Main Street, Central Square.

14– 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

17 – 8:30 a.m., The first Adopt-a-Highway pickup of this year. 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., the Rev. Tanya Atwood-Adams leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time. 12:15 p.m., Drum Circle. 1 to 3 p.m., Heather Stevens, village historian, will speak about the stained-glass windows at our church.

21 – 9:30 a.m., Coffee and Chat at Panera Bread, Route 31, Clay. 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

24 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

25 – Noon, Deadline to have articles for the June newsletter to Bob Haskell.

28 – 5 to 7 p.m., Andrea Abbott will hold office hours at the church.

31 – 9:30 a.m., Choir practice. 10:25 a.m., Announcements. 10:30 a.m., Andrea Abbott leads the worship service. Flower Communion. 10:50 a.m., Religious education program. 11:45 a.m., Social time.

PLEASE USE OUR CALENDAR

A calendar is set up in the church dining room. Please use it to indicate times that you will be using the church and what area you will be using. This way, we will all know when a new event is coming up. Also, we will avoid having two groups planning to use the same space at the same time. We also want to avoid having situations such as the Drum Circle going on while someone is counseling a couple in the next room.

Thank you for helping us to plan ahead.

Ann Peterson

In Unitarian Universalism, you can bring your whole self: your full identity, your questioning mind, your expansive heart.

Unitarian Universalists are united in shared experience: our open and stirring worship services, religious education, and rites of passage; our work for social justice; our quest to include the marginalized; our expressions of love.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

I recently attended a presentation at Women Transcending Boundaries on the topic of “human trafficking.” There was a film and two presenters from Syracuse who work in that field. The facts on this topic were very surprising to me.

New York state is in the top four states that have human trafficking. We are behind California, Florida and Texas. Syracuse is the hub of trafficking in New York state, making it a main hub in the Northeast.

What are the signs of a person being trafficked?

- A young person being seen with an older person http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/9/9e/IJzeren_voetring_voor_gevangenen_transparent_background.png

- Sudden appearance of tattoos, used for branding
- A sudden loss of weight in an individual
- A person missing from school or from his or her regular routine with no explanation
- A young person with hotel keys

In the past teens had been arrested as prostitutes when they were found with older men. Now it is recognized that these people are trafficked, bought and sold for profit. Elaborate schemes are involved in obtaining these young people. Victims are often drugged and beaten, and threats are made to hurt their families or siblings. Now it is recognized that these people are trafficked, bought and sold for profit and moved from area to area. There are now programs to assist the victims of human trafficking and to prosecute the traffickers.

Watch for legislation on this topic.

Ann Peterson

DRUM CIRCLE

We will be drumming again on Sunday, May 17. Because there is another program on the calendar that same day, we will begin and end drumming early. As usual, we will have extra drums, rattles and rhythm sticks for everyone. Younger children are welcome with adult supervision.

Ann Peterson

Unitarian Universalists believe more than one thing. We think for ourselves, and reflect together, about important questions